

**Town of Derry, New Hampshire  
Position Description**

Position Title: **Firefighter/Paramedic**

Department: Fire

Reports To: Company Officer (Lieutenant or Captain)

Date: January 2018

**GENERAL SUMMARY:**

Under direction of their Company Officer (Lieutenant or Captain) responsible for containment, suppression, and extinguishing fires; rescue of individuals from life threatening situations, and the administration of advanced emergency medical life support services to injured persons, including the transport of the sick and injured to medical facilities.

**ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:\***

- Responds to alarms to extinguish fires and protects life and property; drives department vehicles to the scene of emergencies; lays fire hoses and directs streams of water/chemical into fire; positions and climbs ladders to gain access to burning buildings; ventilates burning buildings; participates in site control at emergency scenes; assists in cleaning and returning department vehicles to fire station.
- Responds to hazardous materials and electrical emergency calls.
- Provides advanced life support services as an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic at scene of emergency incident. Operates emergency medical care equipment during the transport of victims, relaying pertinent information to the hospital and performing required medical tasks as appropriate or directed by Medical Control.
- Conducts examinations of victims to determine the extent of illness or injury; documents patient's vital signs, and records all advanced care and services rendered.
- Performs educational and public relation activities including speaking to schools and civic groups.
- Performs routine maintenance of building, grounds, fire and rescue apparatus, equipment, vehicles, and tools; notes and reports safety problems to supervisors.
- Maintains current knowledge of profession through continuous training and drills in fire science, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, and rescue skills; trains members of department on various aspects of fire fighting and EMS.
- Performs company inspections of residential and business locations.
- Participates in continuing education programs.
- Performs short-term coverage duties for Fire Communications personnel.
- Generates accurate incident reports.
- Assists in maintaining inventory of EMS supplies.
- May serve as a member of hazardous materials team or other specialty rescue teams.

### **OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Assists in fire investigations.
- Promotes and maintains responsive community relations.
- Performs other related duties as required.

### **SKILLS/EXPERIENCE/TRAINING REQUIRED:**

- Knowledge of firefighting and emergency response equivalent to completion of high school diploma and one to two years of related experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Must be certified by State and National Registry as an Emergency Medical Technician- Paramedic.
- Must possess certification as NFPA Firefighter Level Two or equivalent Pro-Board Certification.
- Must possess a valid Commercial Driver's License. Hazardous Materials Operations and Pump Operator Certification required once training complete.
- Knowledge of the physical layout of the Town and location of streets and hydrants.
- Knowledge of modern firefighting and rescue principles, practices, and procedures.
- Knowledge of modern emergency medical procedures.
- Ability to read and comprehend all department regulations, policies, procedures, and instructions.
- Ability to analyze emergency situations, to adopt effective courses of action according to department procedures, and to perform effectively in emergency situations.
- Ability to perform limited mechanical and maintenance work on department equipment, vehicles, and facilities.
- Ability to follow written instructions.
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; to establish positive public relations for the Town and department.

### **SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY:**

Supervises treatment of patients by EMT and Advanced EMT personnel.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

- Unimpaired Mobility: Must be able to quickly respond to ambulances and response apparatus, must be able to access patients in difficult terrain, must be able to climb stairs, must be able to work in close and dangerous environments such as damaged vehicles, must be able with partner to carry equipment and patients weighing up to 225 pounds.
- Physical Abilities: Must be able to perform strenuous physical requirements such as firefighting and rescue operations, CPR, lifting and moving of equipment and patients in a variety of environmental conditions. Must be able to swim at basic survival level.

- Regular periods spent in non-office environments including fire scenes and rescue operation locations.
- Exposure to possible infectious and communicable diseases and other biological hazards requiring exercise of appropriate safety and universal precautions.
- Regular lifting and carrying of fire equipment and medical supplies; regular ambulatory assistance to patients requiring appropriate use of body mechanics.
- Periods of standing, walking, carrying tools, climbing ladders, and hauling hose.
- The employee may be required to tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature while performing duties. (Firefighters are required to perform physically demanding work in hot (up to 400°F), humid (up to 100%) atmospheres while wearing equipment that significantly impairs body-cooling mechanisms.)
- The employee must be able to perform a variety of tasks on slippery, hazardous surfaces such as on rooftops or from ladders.
- The employee must be capable of wearing personal protective equipment that weighs approximately 50 lbs. while performing firefighting tasks.
- The employee must be capable of performing physically demanding work while wearing positive-pressure breathing equipment (SCBA).
- The employee may work for long periods of time, requiring sustained physical activity and intense concentration.
- The employee may make rapid transitions from rest to near-maximal exertion without warm-up periods.
- The employee must be capable of operating in environments of high noise; poor visibility; at heights; and enclosed or confined spaces.
- The employee must be able to perform the 13 Essential Job Tasks as noted in Chapter 5 of the most current edition of NFPA 1582 – Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments.
- Fine Motor Skills: Must be able to perform required medical skills and techniques, such as bandaging, splinting, establishing an IV, applying defibrillation pads, and performing advanced airway techniques.
- May use computer keyboards requiring eye-hand coordination and finger dexterity.
- The employee must have the capability to rely on sight, hearing, smell, and touch to help determine the nature of an emergency, to maintain personal safety, to make critical decisions in a confused, chaotic, and potentially life-threatening environment throughout the duration of an emergency operation.
- Vision: Must have correctable vision acceptable for day and night operation of emergency vehicles, must have color acuity adequate for determination of skin and blood color. Must be able to read medication dosages on drug labels and syringes.
- Hearing: Must be able to hear and understand information provided by patients, family or bystanders; must be able to hear breath sounds and accurately determine auscultated blood pressures; must be able to differentiate separate conversations in active, distracting environments; must be able to hear and understand radio traffic when responding with lights and sirens.
- Speech: Must be able to speak and enunciate clearly and at a level audible to others in loud conditions, must be able to speak clearly in stressful situations, must be able to verbally communicate with patients, families and other emergency personnel.

### **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO PATIENT PRIVACY:**

The incumbent is expected to protect the privacy of all patient information in accordance with the Department's privacy policies, procedures, and practices, as required by federal [and state] law, and in accordance with general principles of professionalism as a health care provider. Failure to comply with the Department's policies and procedures on patient privacy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment with the Derry Fire Department.

The incumbent may access protected health information and other patient information only to the extent that is necessary to complete job duties. The incumbent may only share such information with those who have a need to know specific patient information you have in your possession to complete their job responsibilities related to treatment, payment or other department operations.

The incumbent is encouraged and expected to report, without the threat of retaliation, any concerns regarding the Department's policies and procedures on patient privacy and any observed practices in violation of that policy to the designated Privacy Officer.

The incumbent is expected to actively participate in Department privacy training and is required to communicate privacy policy information to coworkers, students, patients and others in accordance with Department policy.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

The information provided in this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by incumbents within this job. It is not designed to be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications and working conditions required of employees, assigned to this job. Management has sole discretion to add or modify duties of the job and to designate other functions as essential at any time. This job description is not an employment agreement or contract.

**\*External and internal applicants, as well as position incumbents who become disabled as defined under the Americans With Disabilities Act, must be able to perform the essential job functions (as listed) either unaided or with the assistance of a reasonable accommodation to be determined by management on a case by case basis.**